

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-13 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /072 W
----- 052718

R 080808Z JUL 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5920

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1238

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CH

SUBJECT: EXIT CHU TEH, ENTER WU TEH

REF: HONG KONG 7852

1. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION JULY 7 WITH MFA PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR CHU CHUAN-HSIEN, JAPANESE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT CHU TEH HAD SEEMED WELL WHEN HE RECEIVED AUSTRALIAN PM FRASER (ON JUNE 21). PROTOCOL CHIEF REPLIED THAT THIS WAS SO, BUT THAT LATER CHU TEH "FELL ILL AND THEREFORE WU TEH TOOK HIS PLACE TO RECEIVE THE GUINEAN AMBASSADOR" (ON JULY 3). JAPANESE READ THIS REMARK, ESPECIALLY THE "THEREFORE," AS IMPLYING WU TEH WILL SUCCEED CHU IN AT LEAST HIS CEREMONIAL DUTIES.

2. COMMENT: THOUGH NOT THE MOST SENIOR OF THE NPC STANDING COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN, WU IS ONE OF THREE FULL POLITBURO MEMBERS ON THAT BODY AND THE ONLY LOGICAL CHOICE TO ASSUME CHU'S FUNCTIONS (LIU PO-CHENG IS INACTIVE AND WEI KUO-CHING IS BASED IN KWANGTUNG). THAT A HONG KONG CADRE WAS ABLE
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RECENTLY TO VOLUNTEER EFFUSIVE PRAISE FOR WU (SEE REFTTEL) STRENGTHENS

THE IMPRESSION THAT WU HAS ALREADY BEEN TAPPED AS CHU'S DE
FACTO SUCCESSOR.
GATES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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